

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION:

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 4, 7 and 10 have been amended. Claims 1-11 are pending and under consideration.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102:

Claims 1, 3-4, 6-7 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Ohkawa (U.S. Patent 6,485,157).

Using independent claim 10 as an example, this claim recites "each of said micro-reflectors having a pair of slopes which meet each other to form a ridge that gets closer to said back face with an increasing distance from said first end face." These features are disclosed, for example, in the present Specification, page 9 (last full paragraph). The ridge 19E is closer to the back face 15E with increasing distance from the incidence face 15A.

In contrast, Ohkawa '157 discloses an emission face 3, a major face 4 (which is a back face), and an incidence face 2. Ohkawa '157, FIGS. 1a-1c, col. 2, ln. 7-17. Slopes 5a and 5b appear to form a ridge which is closer to the emission face 3 with increasing distance from the incidence face 2. The ridge is further from the back face 4 with increasing distance from the incidence face 2.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections is requested.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103:

Claims 2, 5 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohkawa.

The comments above with respect to 35 U.S.C. §102 also apply here.

CONCLUSION:

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the

application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

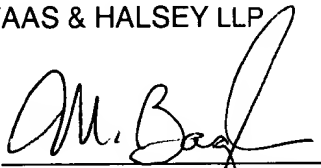
If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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